This Issue of the A. F. of L Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor from within the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Nothing is so commonplace as to wish to be remarkable.—Wendell Holmes.

WHOLE NO. 1367 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 26

Green Hits C. I. O. Destructive Policy As Disastrous to Workers

A. F. of L. President Tells Congressman Luecke That "The Riots, the Reprisals, the Violence and the Deaths" in Recent Labor Disputes Are Clearly Traceable to the Evil Influence of C. I. O. Leadership.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—In a letter to Representative John Luecke of Michigan, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor expressed deep concern over "an evil influence which has caused groups of newly organized workers connected with the C. I. O. to follow a destructive policy," and declared that "thinking people can now begin to see just what it all means."

Mr. Green's letter was in reply to one from Mr. Luecke, who had written to Mr. Green and to John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, urging them to unite their two groups for tried leadership of newly organized workers.

Mr. Luecke was informed by Mr. Green that for a number of months the American Federation of Labor had been ready to confer with the C. I. O. in an effort to adjust the dispute which led the American Federation of Labor to declare the C. I. O. a dual organization, but that the Lewis group had steadfastly refused to meet with the A. F. of L. committee.

Mr. Green's letter to Representative Luecke read as follows:

"My dear Congressman:

"I herewith reply to your letter dated June 11th. The logic of your letter, the opinions you express, and the suggestions you offer have been carefully considered and deeply appreciated. I readily understand that your interest in the success of labor and labor organizations is above and beyond any preference which you may hold for a form of organization. You are interested in the success of labor, rather than in the form of organization which may be launched or which may be administered.

Unity Is Desired

"I have appealed for solidarity and unity. As evidence of this fact I especially urged that a committee from the C. I. O. organizations meet a committee appointed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, which has been standing waiting for an opportunity to confer for more than ten months. It is impossible for the Executive Council's committee to meet when the C. I. O. group refuses to meet with it through its own committee. The American Federation of Labor still stands on a solid foundation it established more than half a century ago.

C. I. O. Created Dual Organization

"Please bear in mind that the C. I. O. group left the American Federation of Labor and created its own organization. The American Federation of Labor created no new movement. It did not sponsor or support a dual movement. It functions now as it always did. It is those who left the American labor movement and who created a dual and rival movement that should return to the house of labor, adjust their affairs and de.elop a solid, strong, united labor movement.

C. I. O. Influence Deplored

"Like you, I have been apprehensive over what has been taking place in the C. I. O. organization movement. An evil influence has caused groups of newly organized workers connected with the C. I. O. to follow a destructive policy. As a result, public opinion is turning against them. I pointed that out in a statement I made condemning sit-down strikes, a copy of which I enclose herein.

"The riots, the reprisals, the violence and the deaths which have occurred can be traceable to one destructive influence. The seizure of the city for a limited period, the cutting off of electric power and light in thousands of homes all show the effect of the evil influence which has shaped and is shaping the policies of these new organizations recruited under the C. I. O. leadership. Surely, thinking people can now begin to see just what it all means.

"I thank you for your letter and I appreciate the advice you give and the deep interest which you manifest in the welfare and success of organized labor. "Very sincerely yours,

"WM. GREEN.

"President, American Federation of Labor."

LABOR GAINS LISTED BY ROCHESTER UNIONS

Optical Workers Win Wage Increase; Baby Food Union Signs Pact; Stenographers Are Organized.

Rochester, N. Y. (AFLNS).—A wage increase for the employes of the Ilex Optical Company here was reported negotiated with the assistance of Hugh Gormley, A. F. of L. organizer. The employes are members of Federal Labor Union No. 18579, directly affiliated with the A. F. of L. The union initiated 150 new members.

Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants Union No. 20726, directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has been organized here. The new union was established and indorsed by Harry G. Brennan, A. F. of L. organizer.

The management of Clapp Baby Food Products, Inc., of Buffalo recently signed an agreement recognizing the American Federation of Labor and its affiliate as collective bargaining agency for the company's employes, numbering approximately one hundred and thirty.

Bartenders Union Signs Up Three Cafes in Lima, Ohio

Lima, Ohio (AFLNS).—Organized labor in Lima recently increased its strength by the negotiation of agreements by the Bartenders International Union with three cafes, which now display union labor cards.

An agreement providing for union conditions for one year was also negotiated with the Superior Body Company.

Valuable assistance in negotiating the agreements was rendered by Alfred F. Murphy, A. F. of L. organizer in the Lima area.

Los Angeles Market Workers Finalize Pay Boost Contract

Los Angeles, Calif. (AFLNS).—The Wholesale Produce Market Workers' Union No. 20284, A. F. of L., at Los Angeles, after only six months in existence, reports the establishment of the 8-hour work day, increased pay and better working conditions, three major objectives of the union, are gradually being attained.

Fine Progress Made By Street Railway and Bus Employes Union

Wage Increases As High as 20 Cents Per Hour Secured by Members of 115 Divisions; 15,000 New Members Added Since First of Year.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—Members of 115 Divisions of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America have bettered their working conditions and increased their wages by some instances as high as 20 cents per hour in the period from January 1 to June 1, according to reports reaching International Headquarters here. Through negotiations and arbitration practically every organized employe in the street railway and motor coach industries has received the predepression high scale of wages. In scores of instances even these predepression rates have been exceeded.

A healthy and continuous growth in membership is resulting from the organizing drive which has been carried on by the Amalgamated Association in recent months, some 15,000 new members having been enrolled since the first of the year. Following the Supreme Court decision upholding the Wagner Law employes of many of the largest interstate bus lines have formed local Divisions of the Amalgamated Association. On a case brought by the Union the Supreme Court upheld the Wagner Law establishing the right of employes in interstate transportation work to organize and bargain collectively.

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Union Shop and Higher Pay Agreements Won By 9,000 Laundry Workers in Philadelphia

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A striking achievement for union labor in Philadelphia was made when nine thousand inside workers employed in one of the Laundry Workers International Union, negotiated agreements with laundry concerns here providing for union shop, wage increases, arbitration of disputes, and improved work conditions.

The Philadelphia local is one of the largest locals affiliated with the International Union.

Baltimore Federal Labor Union Wins Holtite Strike

Baltimore, Md. (AFLNS).—The strike of members of Federal Labor Union No. 20777, directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, against the Holtite Manufacturing Company was settled by an agreement calling for improved work conditions. Anna Neary, A. F. of L. representative here, assisted the union in the negotiations.

Paper Box Makers Win Wage Boost In Strike Settlement

Jersey City, N. J. (AFLNS).—The strike of members of Paper Box Makers Union No. 20605 here was settled by an agreement calling for a wage increase of four cents an hour for men and three cents an hour for women. Charles J. Jennings, A. F. of L. organizer, assisted in negotiating the settlement terms.

Sit-Down Strike Is Ruled Illegal Under Two Laws By U. S. Court

Unanimous Appellate Decision in Philadelphia Orders Ejection of Apex Hosiery Strikers; Seizure of Plant By C. I. O. Union Held Criminal and in Violation of Both Sherman Anti-Trust Act and Wagner Labor Relations Act.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—In a strongly-worded decision which appears to outlaw sit-down strikes wherever they impede the free flow of interstate commerce, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Judicial District in a unanimous decision here ordered the immediate evacuation of the Apex Hosiery Company Mill, 8th and Luserne streets, by 250 sit-down strikers who seized the plant on May 6 and held it for a month and a half. The decision ordered the plant restored to the Apex Hosiery Company. "Its rightful owner."

In the ruling, which is said to be the first one by a Federal Circuit Court of Appeals on the sit-down strike issue, the seizure of the property was denounced as "unlawful and criminal" and the Philadelphia branch of American Federation of Hosiery Workers, an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization, with its officers, was declared a violator of the Sherman Act on the ground that it restrained interstate commerce.

Judge J. Warren Davis wrote the decision, which was concurred in by Circuit Judge Joseph Buffington and District Judge Oliver B. Dickinson. The ruling reversed a District Court opinion by Judge William H. Kirkpatrick, who had decided that the sit-downers violated Pennsylvania law but that the United States Courts had no jurisdiction.

In addition to violating the Sherman (Anti-Trust Act, the Appellate Court held that the Hosiery Workers Federation had also failed to take advantage of the Wagner Labor Relations Act. The court claimed that the Federation had been no strike at the plant, and that its seizure followed a "demonstration" by members of the union and union sympathizers to compel the company to agree to a closed shop.

Law and Order Defied

"Underlying this decision," the Appeals Court opinion said, "is the question of whether a few lawless individuals ignoring and condemning the Wagner Act, defied its mandate of law and order, and in ruthless disregard of the rights of others, made the peremptory assuming the name of a union, to deprive all others of their means of livelihood and compel them to contribute of their earnings to suit-styled leaders.

Wagner Act Ignored

"A few 'sit-downers' are keeping 2,500 persons, who were entirely satisfied with their positions, from working and from earning an honest living for themselves and their families. If an employer had denied to labor any of its rights the Wagner act provided an orderly way of calling him to account instead of resorting to this act, the defendants by force and violence sought to compel the employer and his employes to do what the Wagner act does not countenance, and what the judgement of every true friend of labor and of the public condemns as wrong both in policy and principle.

Lawless Conduct Hits American Federation

"Public opinion will sympathize with labor in securing for its workers its legal means to secure and protect its rights, but public opinion will not sympathize the same, sober, thoughtful and lawabiding element of labor—will be outraged at the lawless conduct of the defendants which, if tolerated, would strike down American institutions flaunt our long-cherished principles of free government and undermine the foundations of the Government itself.

"Not even the counsel for the defendants condoned their lawless, criminal conduct in this case, but in open court condemned it."

Plant Seizure Affected Interstate Commerce

The court declared that the "sole question" at issue was whether or not the acts of the defendants have so burdened, obstructed or stopped the plain-

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American Federation of Labor Unions Win Reynolds Metals Company Pact

Closed Shop, Wage Increases, 40-Hour Week and Seniority Rules Included in Federated Pact Negotiated by Aluminum and Tinfoil Workers', Machinists', Firemen and Oilers', Printers and Pressmen's Organizations.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—A closed shop agreement affecting five plants of the Reynolds Metals Company, located at Louisville, Kentucky; Richmond, Virginia, Harrison, New Jersey, and Glendale, Long Island, New York, was signed here recently by officials of the Company and representatives of Unions of the American Federation of Labor.

The agreement covers four Federal Labor Unions of Aluminum and Tin Foil Workers; four Local Unions of the International Association of Machinists; four Local Unions of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers; two Local Unions of the International Typographical Union and two Local Unions of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America.

The closed shop of the agreement ended negotiations which have been carried on for several weeks past and the new agreement replaces one signed on April 9th, at which time a short agreement was negotiated which guaranteed the closed shop and provided for the negotiating of the final agreement just signed.

Under the terms of the agreement the International Unions affected have secured the recognition of the established union wage scales in the cities of Louisville, Kentucky, Richmond, Virginia, Newark, New Jersey and New York City, as well as other standards established under closed shop agreements by these International Unions.

Wage Increases Listed

Wage increases which reached as high as 25 cents per hour in the case of some printing pressmen and as high as 40 cents per hour in the case of some skilled machinists were secured in order to bring the skilled workers under union scales.

The production workers covered by the Federal Labor Unions received from 5 cents to 10 cents per hour increases in wages effective June 1st, which was in addition to a 5 to 10 cent increase received by these employes on April 16. These production workers have also secured a closed shop agreement with the checkoff of union dues as well as the establishment of minimum wage scales for male and female labor, at the various plants.

Hours and Seniority Rights

The agreement, combining general working rules for all of the thirteen local unions affected, along with the provisions of the special rules of the

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UNIONS GUARD MEMBERS FROM DISCRIMINATION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

An example of the effective work performed by A. F. of L. organizers in securing justice for workers is exhibited in two recent instances reported to the American Federation of Labor.

In Peoria, Illinois, George C. Prouty, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, received information which convinced him that Harry Polley had been dismissed by the Bondi-Hi-Lo Oil Company for union activities in connection with the Gasoline Station Employes Local Union there. Mr. Prouty took the matter up with the management of the company and secured the reinstatement of Mr. Polley with pay for all the time lost since he was separated from the company's payroll.

In Richmond, Virginia, Henry M. Monahan, A. F. of L. organizer in that area, was convinced that a teamster employed by the Wyatt Laundry Company had been discharged for union activity. Following negotiations carried on by Mr. Monahan with representatives of the company, the teamster was reinstated and awarded thirteen weeks back pay.

PAPER MAKERS UNION FORMED IN RICHMOND

Richmond, Va. (AFLNS).—Paper Makers Local Union No. 161 has been organized in Richmond. The charter was presented and the members and officers obligated by H. M. Monahan, A. F. of L. organizer here.

NEW JERSEY CARPENTERS BACK PRESIDENT GREEN

Elizabeth, N. J. (AFLNS).—A resolution commending William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, for his militant defense of the democratic principles of the A. F. of L. was adopted by the 150 delegates to the convention of the New Jersey State Council of Carpenters in session here.

M. F. Cantwell, secretary of the convention, sent the following telegram to Mr. Green at the A. F. of L. headquarters at Washington, D. C.:

"The New Jersey State Council of Carpenters, assembled in convention at Elizabeth, N. J., Saturday, June 19, 1937, by resolution endorses your stand against the C. I. O. and pledges to unanimous support."

Teamsters and Chauffeurs Of Bay City Get Charter

Bay City, Mich. (AFLNS).—The newly organized local of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs Brotherhood at Bay City was presented with their charter by President Earl Shaw of the Bay City Federation of Labor at a rousing meeting of drivers overflowing with enthusiasm.

HIGHER WAGES WON BY TOLEDO UNIONS

All Taxicab Companies Are Union Shop; Laborers Receive 75 Cents an Hour; County Employes Pay Is Raised.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Toledo, Ohio.—Active work by the American Federation of Labor unions to improve the economic conditions of workers in this area continues to record substantial results, according to reports from the office of the American Federation of Labor here in charge of Francis J. Dillon.

All taxicab companies in Toledo are now operating under a closed shop agreement, negotiated by the local unit of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America. There are 250 members in the local.

Closed shop agreements carrying a wage scale of 75 cents an hour have been negotiated by the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union and the Associated Building Contractors of Toledo, the Excavators' Association and the Road Contractors' Association and the building supply yards. Over 1,000 Toledo workers are members of the union.

Responding to demands of the State, City and County Employes Union, Lucas County Commissioners increased the wages of a number of maintenance men effective July 1 from $150 per month to a mind from $185 to $200 per month, painters' wages from $160 to $166.66; electricians from $150 to $175 and two yardmen were substitute as janitors from $125 to $137.50.

GALESBURG AND HOUSTON BAKERS WIN UNION SHOPS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Bakers Local Union No. 163 of Houston, Texas, has asked Golman Bros. Baking Company to its growing list of union shops. The agreement provides for the use of the union label.

Golman Bros. formerly operated a union bakery in Dallas, and are now erecting a plant in Houston which will open for business about the first of July.

The newly organized Bakers Union at Galesburg, Ill., has negotiated agreements with the six master bakers of that city providing for the closed shop. The bakery employes 100 per cent organized, union officials report that only one bakery operator is outside the union. One of the union's requirements is that applicant must have a physical examination.

Cement Finishers in Oakland Win $1.25 Per Hour Contract

Oakland, Calif. (AFLNS).—The Cement Finishers Union of Oakland has negotiated a closed shop agreement with the Master Cement Contractors Association providing a new wage scale of $1.25 per hour.

Union officials said the closed shop contract agreement was the first one to be signed between the two organizations since the Pacific Coast.

Negotiations of the agreement was effected following a six months campaign for membership which brought into the union all cement workers in Oakland into the union.

Peoria Brick Workers Union Gains Increased Wage Rates

Peoria, Ill. (AFLNS).—The local union of United Brick and Clay Workers won a clear victory here, when a contract was secured with the Pekington Brick Company, covering all workers. Brick wheelers had been on strike.

All employes who had been getting 45 cents an hour were advanced to 50 cents, while those who had received over 50 cents an hour were advanced 5 cents per hour.

Two hundred employes of the Galesburg plant and 150 at the Streator plant also benefit by the settlement.

Tool and Die Makers Win Contract From Racine Firm

Racine, Wis. (AFLNS).—The Tool and Die Makers' and Machinists' Unions of Racine have secured a new agreement with the Belle City Malleable Company by which a 5 per cent increase in wages was granted, establishing a minimum of $1 per hour. It is the first signed agreement secured with the firm, although some union people had been employed before under oral contract.

Oglesby City Council Pays Library Janitor Union Rate

Oglesby, Ill. (AFLNS).—The City Council of Oglesby, following overtures made by a committee of the Building Service Employes' Union, raised the wages of the janitor of the public library from $50 to $70 per month for 100 hours of work. This is in accordance with the new union scale of 75 cents an hour fixed by the union.

Pay Raise Pact Negotiated By Miami Printers Union

Miami, Fla. (AFLNS). — Nearly 300 printers, employed by the three daily newspapers in Miami, have secured wage increases of approximately $3.15 for a 35-hour work week. The new contract brings the weekly wage scale of members of Typographical Union to $42.70 for day work and $45.15 for night work.

Federal Housing Legislation Delay Is Condemned By Green

Demands Prompt Passage of Wagner-Steagall Measure To Provide Low-Rental Dwellings For Small Income Workers and Challenges Secretary Morgenthau's Plan to Substitute Capital Grants for Federal Subsidy to Reduce Rents in Measure on Which "Labor Has Worked From Its Earliest Stages More Than Two Years Ago."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A trenchantly-phrased demand for prompt consideration and enactment of the Wagner-Steagall Federal Housing Bill was made in a statement issued by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The purpose of the Wagner-Steagall Bill is to provide adequate housing for those who are unable to buy or rent housing accommodations constructed and sold by private industry.

The Bill proposes the establishment of a United States Housing Authority authorized to issue bonds, guaranteed by the Federal Government, not to exceed $1,000,000,000 over a four year period at the rate of $200,000,000 for the first year, $250,000,000 for the second year, $250,000,000 for the third year and $300,000,000 for the fourth year.

The money realized from the sale of these bonds will be used for loans to State, municipal and county housing authorities to construct low-rent housing on the principles set forth in the Federal Act, which includes Federal subsidies to keep down rents to reasonable levels.

The Wagner-Steagall Low-Cost Housing Bill was introduced in both houses of Congress on February 24 and referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Banking and Currency. Hearings have been held by the Senate Committee, but no report on the measure has been made.

Following is the text of Mr. Green's statement criticizing the delay in acting on the Wagner-Steagall Bill:

Importance of Bill Stressed

"The American Federation of Labor and its entire membership throughout the nation finds it is necessary at this time to register publicly a strong and vehement protest at the unnecessary delay in the enactment of the Wagner-Steagall Low-Rent Housing Bill.

"Some months ago it was stated that the Wagner-Steagall Bill was Number One Bill on the legislative program of the Labor's legislative program for this session of Congress. Today this legislative measure stands not only as one tha is number one important piece of legislation for labor but one that has enlisted more direct and solid support than any other legislative proposal designed to improve the economic and physical welfare of the wage earners throughout the nation.

Blocked in Committee

"Labor wants to know what has happened to the Bill.

"Hearings were held by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor long ago. At these hearings representatives of labor, of consumers, of social and welfare organizations, of religious groups of all denominations, of housing authorities and local governments, of the administrative agencies of the Federal Government, all spoke as one in support of this measure and presented unanswerable and unassailable evidence that the U. S. Housing Bill of 1937 is the most practicable, most sound, and most comprehensive program of housing for low income groups yet devised.

The hearings were completed and there the legislative matter rested. There has been no Committee report, no hearings have been scheduled by the House and there is no immediate promise of action.

Favored by President Roosevelt

"Congress is pulling into the home stretch. Yet most of the major legislation before it has been barely touched. The Housing Bill must not be permitted to be caught in the last minute legislative jam. A further 'delay' on the Housing Bill will inevitably have to be given an uglier name—particularly if it results in no legislation this year.

"President Roosevelt has strongly ex-

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HEINZ COMPANY EMPLOYES VOTE FOR A. F. OF L. UNION

Pittsburgh Plant Favors Canning and Pickle Workers Unit by Good Majority.

Pittsburgh, Pa. (AFLNS).—The Canning and Pickle Workers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was chosen as bargainent exclusively in collective bargaining more than 2,000 workers in the main plant of the H. J. Heinz Company here. The election was held under the supervision of Ernest C. Dunbar, acting regional director of the National Labor Relations Board to end a strike called by the union during which the company recognized the so-called Heinz Employes Association as bargaining agent for all the workers. The A. F. of L. group charged that the company exercised coercion in connection with the Employes Association, and the election held by the Labor Board was agreed upon to settle the matter. The vote was 1,979 for the A. F. of L. Union and 808 for the Employes Association.

400 New York Industrial Insurance Agents Leave C. I. O. and Join the A. F. of L.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Four hundred members of the Central Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Union of America severed their connections with the Committee for Industrial Organization and arranged for affiliation with the American Federation of Labor through the New York City Office.

In a statement made public by Mortimer L. Davis, president of the union, the reasons given for the change of affiliation was that the Insurance Agents Union of America did not desire to be affiliated with the white collar workers chartered by the Committee for Industrial Organization, because of the communistic tendency manifested by many of the leaders of this group.

Mr. Davis reported a potential membership of about five thousand in the New York City area alone.